

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 1, 2013

Subcommittee Members: Council Member Sheryl Cole, Chair  
Council Member Laura Morrison  
Council Member Chris Riley

Call Meeting to Order

**1. Citizen Communication**

Scott Johnson, spoke on Safety Issues, regarding bicyclist, vehicle and pedestrian. Scott stated he remembers back in 1992 when the City formed their first bicycle committee. He was very excited. Since that point until now the city has continued to work on things relative to the cyclist such as bike lanes. What the City Council should focus on now are behavior issues. There is more aggressive and distractive driving which is partially through the text messaging band that took effect in early 2010. If possible the City should look at best practices from other cities and creatively come up with something for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclist, vehicles and people on scooters.

Council Member Morrison added there was an article in the paper about a month ago where the City Attorney stated there may be a problem with our no texting law and that Council Martinez and Council Member Morrison are working together to meet with the attorney's in terms of what needs to be done to improve this law.

Scott Johnson, spoke on Carbon Neutral Fleet Plan that some fuels lend themselves to best in terms of reducing carbon emissions. Other fuels lend themselves to good or better in terms of producing ozone forms of emissions. Please consider ground and air level pollution intertwines. Make sure we do not violate the ground level ozone standard. There is no other citizen who is more passionate about the city and the pollution than I am.

**2. Approval of April 1, 2013 minutes**

August 5, 2013 – Unanimously approved on a 3-0 vote.

### **3. Briefing on the Review Process for the Sale of City Owned Land**

Lauraine Rizer, Officer of Real Estate, discussed the revised Proposed Sales Process of City Owned Land. October 11, 2012 City Council requested that staff go back and review the process for the sale of City-owned land, including the community outreach and consider relevance to city plans and polices. City Council asked staff to write a policy that would create an economic gain as well as protect the city.

The Office of Real Estate revised their process by providing a comparative survey of eight other cities, scheduled two focus group meetings with Neighborhood Group Representatives, Lenders, Attorneys, Developers and City Staff. Staff also, posted a questionnaire on Speak up Austin website to gain insight from the general public.

Staff met with the Focus Groups and they suggested staff should meet with the Imagine Austin (Small Area Plan, Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan) of any plans there were made in regards to City owned properties. Look more detailed at the neighborhood plans and developing appropriate visions for the property under consideration. Also, notifying the local residents, homeowners and tenants within 1000 feet, registered neighborhood associations, increase public participation by attending neighborhood meetings and online discussions. Before the Office of Real Estate can move forward they must validate the Real Estate's inventory by compiling a full list of city of Austin properties, develop inventory for each Steward Department and incorporate suggestions from focus group discussions into this process. The staff recommendations are to develop a process for Steward Departments to identify their surplus property which can be establish during their Business Plan Process, develop and implement internal Imagine Austin team for evaluation of proposed sales, CMO review and approval of proposed sales and Council notification. The properties of federally funded projects, projects funded by certain types of bond, street/alley vacations, remnants and HUD does not fall under the Surplus Process.

Council Member Morrison, thanked staff and stated, that parcel was brought to City Council by an outside buyer who wanted to purchase a specific piece of land. Council Member Morrison asked that moving forward that anyone interested in buy a piece of land will have to go through this annual process?

Lauraine Rizer stated, that is correct unless directed to do something different by Council Resolution.

Council Member Morrison, asked if a piece of land could be used as a park and another area needs a park would that come out of the Community Benefits Review how will that be carried forward?

Lauraine Rizer stated, that if staff needed to relocate they would need to provide that information within their five year plan and expenses, explaining that we are going to sale this land but will use a portion of it as a Community Benefit. Further showing the pros and cons of this change for the department and the City as a whole.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, asked what will we do if an outside party is interested in land that the City owns?

Lauraine Rizer stated, we would need to contact the Client Department to see if they needed the land in question. If they did not need the land now or within the next five years, then she would contact the Housing Department to see if this land could be used for housing per the previous Housing Resolution. If the land could be used for Affordable Housing this ends the process. If, the Housing Department stated they can't use it, then staff would proceed to sale the property by advertisement and getting bids and have it restricted for a certain use.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, asked as of now it seems we are giving a lot of consideration to potential economic value?

Lauraine Rizer commented with yes.

Council Member Riley had questions regarding slide #7 of Real Estate inventory of the compiled list of City of Austin properties?

Lauraine Rizer stated no we do not have a compiled list. The current list the department has is a compiled list of real estate that the City has purchased since it came into existence. Also, there are a lot of departments that manage their own leases within their departments that the Real Estate Office may not be aware of.

Council Member Riley asked if we currently have a data base with a list of all City properties?

Lauraine Rizer stated, no. We have a lot of individual data bases that need to be combined.

Council Member Riley stated that if nothing else we should aim for one useful data base of all City properties.

Several other key points were inadvertently left off of item # 3 which can be accessed through the Channel 6 video.

#### **4. Update on 2020 Carbon Neutral Fleet Plan and Related Goals**

Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer provided an introduction of a piece that was not integrated into the presentation briefing. The 2007 Climate Resolution directed by staff to make the City fleet carbon neutral by 2020. Staff has made excellent progress and today's presentation will provide you with those processes. The Office of Sustainability and Fleet Services has worked well together on this plan of showing the road map to where we are going. But, there is a lack of awareness among citizens as to where we are going. At this point staff has been trying to come up with creative ideas on how to share this awareness with citizens.

Jennifer Walls, Acting Fleet Services Officer, provided an overview of the types of Fleet Innovation. There is currently 68% of the Fleet that is alternative fueled or hybrid electric. Of those are 269 hybrids, 300 propane units, 894 ethanol units, 50 compressed natural gas units and 33 electric vehicle charging stations and vehicles. Another technology that Fleet uses is Auxiliary Power Units, which consist of 508 in Police cruisers and 29 equipment and tool units.

Zach Baumer, Climate Protection Manager, discussed the Resolution #20070215-023 that was passed in 2007 to make the City fleet carbon neutral by 202 through electric power, non-petroleum fuels, new technologies and mitigation and other measures as necessary. At this point the City of Austin is the best in this class nationwide in regards to the targeting and plans for carbon neutral fleet plans. The other two cities that have these plans are Missoula which just passed theirs in January 2013 and Seattle.

Jennifer Wall, explained the three part process of the Carbon Neutral Plan, (1) New Vehicle and Equipment Purchasing, Qualitative – Departmental Needs Analysis which are the operational needs, is there an alt-fuel/hybrid available, available fuel infrastructure and available grant funds. The Quantitative – Cost Benefit Analysis Calculator, vehicle upfront cost, vehicle lifecycle fuel and maintenance costs and lifetime CO2 and NOx emissions. (2) Fueling Infrastructure and Fuel Purchasing, Gap analysis and long-term planning and minimize fuel costs through fuel consortiums and tax credits. (3) Driver Education, do I need to drive, driving for efficiency and fueling my vehicle properly.

Zach Baumer, explained the next steps to continue purchasing the most efficient vehicles – re-evaluating department's operational needs to identify efficiencies. Maximize alt-fuel infrastructure availability and use, the diversity fuel infrastructure and explore shared infrastructure with other local governments and industries including AISD, CapMetro, UT, and Travis

County. Train 100% of City Staff, follow up with mpg and alt-fuel competition and Increase reporting and departmental communication.

Council Member Riley thanked staff for all of their hard work regarding the Carbon Neutral Fleet Planning. Council Member Riley asked about the GAP Analysis and the Long-term Planning CNG Facilities within the North area, where are we currently?

Gerry Calk, Fleet Officer, stated Fleet Services is in the process of working with Real Estate to find property within the North location to build a facility. Once that is locked in they will begin to build of which that facility will be shared between a number of different departments.

Council Member Riley asked what are the timeframes of completion for the facility North?

Gerry Calk, stated it depends on how fast the property is available and once the contract is in place we should be able to move quickly. At this time we do not know the timeframe.

Council Member Morrison, asked how much variability from driver to driver in the routes they may take?

Gerry Calk, stated there could be a significant variation between drivers in regards to the term of jack rabbit starts and aggressive stops to maintaining the air pressure in tires. Just a simple air pressure in tires can make a 3-5% difference in the gas mileage of a vehicle. This will also be part of the training video that is being produced.

## **5. Update on City's Sidewalk Master Plan**

Howard Lazarus, Director, Public Works Department, thanked Council Members for the opportunity to discuss the Sidewalk Program. Every plan that city staff takes on is due to the plan of Imagine Austin and the Sidewalk Program supports several of the Imagine Austin Priority Programs. Invest in a compact and connected Austin, use green infrastructure, create a healthy Austin Program. The Imagine Austin contains goals to reduce vehicular trips for the average citizen and those you are mobility challenged. We have program implementation of building pedestrian infrastructure, public health (safety, education) and the built environment, assisting with regulatory updates and tracking metrics. As of what is going on now regarding the sidewalks, ADA accessibility, green construction, neighborhood partnering, trails connectivity, ROW maintenance and safe routes to school.

The Sidewalk Program was initiated in 2005 but the challenge at the time was there was no dedicated funding in the 2006 bond program for sidewalks. In 2010 and 1012 we had some increase in bond funding that was dedicated to

sidewalk funding program. For fiscal year 2014 for the first time we will be able to add some of the operational funds into the budget for sidewalks for repair/replacement of non-compliant sidewalks which has been requested by a lot of our stakeholders.

For the future staff wants to make sure the program continues to maturation to a comprehensive pedestrian mobility program, increased focus on intermodal connections, enhanced overlay of programs and reporting on outcomes as well as outputs.

Mayor Pro Tem Cole, thanked Howard for the update.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**